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Mechanicam vero duplicem Veteres constituerunt: Rationalem quae per Demonstrationes accurate procedit, & Practicam. Ad practicam spectant Artes omnes Manuales, a quibus utique Mechanica nomen mutuata est. Cum autem Artifices parum accurate operari soleant, fit ut Mechanica omnis a Geometria ita distinguatur, ut quicquid accuratum sit ad Geometriam referatur, quicquid minus accuratum ad Mechanicam. Attamen errores non sunt Artis sed Artificum. Qui minus accurate operatur, imperfectior est Mechanicus, & si quis accuratissime operari posset, hic foret Mechanicus omnium perfectissimus.

La généralité que j'embrasse, au lieu d'éblour nos lumieres, nous découvrira plutôt les véritables loix de la Nature dans tout leur éclat, & on y trouvera des raisons encore plus fortes, d'en admirer la beauté & la simplicité.

EULER

... ut proinde his paucis consideratis tota haec materia redacta sit ad puram Geometriam, quod in physicis & mechanicis unice desideratum.

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A 7 V-2 6

CONTENTS OF VOLUME 26

	Page
Berkovitz, L.D., & H. Pollard, A Non-Classical Variational Problem Arising from an Optimal Filter Problem	281
Browder, F.E., Approximation-Solvability of Nonlinear Functional Equations in Normed Linear Spaces	33
CASWELL, B., Kinematics and Stress on a Surface of Rest	385
COHEN, D.S., Positive Solutions of Nonlinear Eigenvalue Problems: Applications to Nonlinear Reactor Dynamics	305
DICKEY, R.W., The Plane Circular Elastic Surface Under Normal Pressure	219
GARABEDIAN, P.R., & M. Schiffer, The Local Maximum Theorem for the Coefficients of Univalent Functions	. 1
GURTIN, M.E., & W.O. WILLIAMS, An Axiomatic Foundation for Continuum Thermodynamics	83
HELLIWELL, J.B., One-Dimensional Steady Magnetogasdynamic Flow in Oblique Fields and the Structure of Shock Waves	237
HOLDEN, J. T., Corrigendum to "Estimation of Critical Loads in Elastic Stability Theory", Arch. Rational Mech. Anal., 17, 171 – 183 (1964)	403
IGLISCH, R., Über den Ausnahmefall bei nichtlinearen gewöhnlichen Differentialgleichungen zweiter Ordnung mit periodischen Koeffizienten	50
Lew, J.S., Extension of a Local Diffeomorphism	400
Mennicken, R., Neue numerische Verfahren zur Berechnung des charakteristischen Exponenten der verallgemeinerten Mathieuschen Differentialgleichung $(1+2\gamma\cos 2x)$ $y''(x)+(\lambda-2h^2\cos 2x)$ $y(x)=0$	163
MÜLLER, I., On the Entropy Inequality	118
Oddson, J.K., Phragmén-Lindelöf and Comparison Theorems for Elliptic Equations with Mixed Boundary Conditions	316
O'MALLEY, R.E., Jr., The First Boundary Value Problem for Certain Linear Elliptic Differential Equations Involving Two Small Parameters	68
OSTROWSKI, A.M., Contributions to the Theory of the Method of Steepest Descent	257
Petryshyn, W.V., Remarks on the Approximation-Solvability of Nonlinear Functional Equations	43

VI Contents

	Page
POLLARD, H., see BERKOVITZ, L.D	281
Roseau, M., Diffraction by a Wedge in an Anisotropic Medium	188
ROSEMAN, J. J., The Principle of Saint-Venant in Linear and Non-Linear Plane Elasticity	142
SARASON, L., Differentiable Solutions of Symmetrizable and Singular Symmetric First Order Systems	
Schiffer, M., see Garabedian, P.R	1
SHAH, S. M., Entire Functions with no Finite Deficient Value	179
Thoe, D.W., Eigenfunction Expansions Associated with Schroedinger Operators in R_n , $n \ge 4$	335
WILLIAMS, W. O., see GURTIN, M. E.	83